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Analytical Paper

2011 General Social Survey: Overview of Families in Canada – Selected Tables on Families in Canada

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.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
p	preliminary
r	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published
*	significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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Introduction

For the fifth time, in 2011, the General Social Survey (GSS) collected detailed information on families in Canada. Previous GSS surveys on this topic were conducted in 1990, 1995, 2001 and 2006. The 2011 survey updated most of the information collected in previous surveys, including leaving the family home, conjugal history (marriages, common-law unions, separations and divorces), children (biological, adopted or step), maternity and parental leave, childcare arrangements, intentions to form (or re-form) a union, fertility intentions, custody and financial support agreements and work history. As in all GSS surveys, data were also collected on the respondent's main activity, education and other socio-demographic characteristics. The 2011 GSS data can be used for cross-sectional and retrospective analyses (i.e. tracking the different family histories and trajectories followed by men and women).

The target population includes all people aged 15 and over living in a private household in Canada[1].

Now that the survey collection has finished for this fifth GSS cycle on families, it's time to present a few highlights. The present publication consists of an article and selected tables. The article[2] focuses on the situation of parents and stepparents, who become members of a stepfamily. The article examines the types of stepfamilies respondents live in, their conjugal history and their socieconomic characteristics.

The selected tables examine different aspects of life as a couple, and as a family. Among other topics, first to be highlighted are intentions to form a/another union, couples living apart, and sterilization and infertility among Canadians. In addition, other tables cover the distribution of Canadians who live with their children, the use of childcare for pre-school and school-aged children, grandparenting, and children's primary residence following a breakup of their parents' union.

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1 Excluding residents of Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, as well as full-time residents of institutions (hospitals, work camps, jails, missions, group homes, etc.).

2 To consult this document, click on the following link: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-650-x/89-650-x2012002-eng.htm.

Selected Tables on Families in Canada

Table 1
Distribution of people who intend to marry or remarry by de facto marital status and region of residence, Canada, 2011

	Marriage intentions (persons never married)			Remarriage intentions (persons who have already been married)				
Intentions	Single	Living common-law	Total	Living common-law	Divorced	Widowed	Total	Total intentions
				percentage				
Canada								
Yes	62	39	56	24	10	2[1]	10	44
No	20	38	24	50	66	89	71	37
Uncertain	17	22	18	25	23	9	18	18
				Number (in thousands)				
Total	**7,350**	**2,323**	**9,673**	**820**	**1,251**	**1,379**	**3,450**	**13,123**
				percentage				
Atlantic								
Yes	62	56	61	34[1]	10[1]	X	10	46
No	22	25	23	36	68	89	71	37
Uncertain	15	17	16	32[1]	22	10	18	16
				Number (in thousands)				
Total	**452**	**142**	**594**	**47**	**78**	**115**	**240**	**834**
				percentage				
Quebec								
Yes	44	30	38	14[1]	6[1]	X	7	30
No	33	46	39	66	74	91	77	48
Uncertain	22	24	23	19[1]	19	7[1]	15	21
				Number (in thousands)				
Total	**1,668**	**1,242**	**2,910**	**317**	**359**	**315**	**991**	**3,901**
				percentage				
Ontario								
Yes	69	44	65	27	11[1]	1[1]	10	51
No	16	30	18	43	61	88	70	31
Uncertain	14	23	16	29	26	8	18	16
				Number (in thousands)				
Total	**2,978**	**458**	**3,436**	**249**	**418**	**554**	**1,221**	**4,657**
				percentage				
Prairies								
Yes	67	53	64	31	13	2[1]	13	51
No	16	26	17	38	64	85	66	30
Uncertain	17	20	17	27	22	11	19	18
				Number (in thousands)				
Total	**1,228**	**273**	**1,501**	**121**	**206**	**203**	**529**	**2,031**
				percentage				
British Columbia								
Yes	64	51	62	34[1]	11[1]	X	11[1]	48
No	16	34	19	38[1]	62	90	69	33
Uncertain	19	14[1]	18	26[1]	26	9[1]	19	19
				Number (in thousands)				
Total	**1,024**	**208**	**1,231**	**86**	**190**	**192**	**469**	**1,700**

Note: Percentages may not add to 100%. Totals include the "don't know" and "refused" categories, which are not shown in the table.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2011.

Table 2
Main reason why people have married or would like to marry their current partner, Canada, 2011

Main reason	Reason why you got married[1]		Reason why you intend to get married[2]	
	Number (in thousands)	%	Number (in thousands)	%
To have/adopt children	1,242	9	103	9
Proof of love and commitment	4,567	32	412	38
Living together was not socially acceptable	1,083	7	X	X
To make the relationship official	1,208	8	182	17
Financial security	134	1	41 E	4 E
Partner wanted to	298	2	45 E	4 E
Pressure from family and friends	248	2	X	X
Cultural/moral/religious beliefs	5,131	35	141	13
Other	279	2	49 E	4 E
Don't know/Not stated	305	2	96	9
Total	**14,494**	**100**	**1,098**	**100**

1 Question asked of respondents who were married at the time of the survey

2 Question asked of respondents who were living in a common-law relationship at the time of the survey

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2011

Table 3
Main reason why people living in common-law do not intend to marry their current partner, Canada, 2011

Main reason	Number (in thousands)	percentage
Relationship is too recent/fragile	X	X
Current situation is fine as it is	430	33
Wedding (preparations, cost)	107	8
Don't believe in the institution of marriage	293	23
To maintain financial independance	58 E	4 E
Partner does not want to	32 E	2 E
Does not want to commit (emotionally)	20 E	2 E
Never thought about it	54 E	4 E
Other	154	12
Previous experiences	39 E	3 E
Don't know/Not stated	102	8
Total	**1,300**	**100**

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2011

Table 4
Distribution of unmarried people not in a common-law relationship, by marital status and being in an intimate relationship with someone they do not live with, Canada, 2011

	In an intimate relationship with someone living in another household		Not in an intimate relationship		Total	
De facto marital status	Number (in thousands)	percentage	Number (in thousands)	percentage	Number (in thousands)	percentage
Single	2,063	28	5,233	71	7,350	100
Separated	74	13	481	86	561	100
Divorced	261	21	972	78	1,251	100
Widowed	67	5	1,304	95	1,379	100
Total	**2,465**	**23**	**7,991**	**76**	**10,541**	**100**

Note: Percentages may not add to 100%. Totals include the "don't know" and "refused" categories, which are not shown in the table.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2011.

Table 5
Distribution of unmarried people not in a common-law relationship, by age group and being in an intimate relationship with someone they do not live with, Canada, 2011

	In an intimate relationship with someone living in another household		Not in an intimate relationship		Total	
Age group	Number (in thousands)	percentage	Number (in thousands)	percentage	Number (in thousands)	percentage
15 to 19 years	536	25	1,598	75	2,141	100
20 to 29 years	1,138	36	2,008	63	3,168	100
30 to 39 years	237	25	688	73	941	100
40 to 49 years	231	22	787	76	1,030	100
50 to 59 years	171	16	881	83	1,062	100
60 years and more	154	7	2,029	92	2,199	100
Total	**2,465**	**23**	**7,991**	**76**	**10,541**	**100**

Note: Percentages may not add to 100%. Totals include the "don't know" and "refused" categories, which are not shown in the table.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2011.

Table 6
Distribution of unmarried people not in a common-law relationship, by province and being in an intimate relationship with someone they do not live with, Canada, 2011

	In an intimate relationship with someone living in another household		Not in an intimate relationship		Total	
Province	Number (in thousands)	percentage	Number (in thousands)	percentage	Number (in thousands)	percentage
Newfoundland and Labrador	43	29	103	70	147	100
Prince Edward Island	11	26	31	74	42	100
Nova Scotia	86	29	208	70	296	100
New Brunswick	56	27	154	73	211	100
Quebec	564	23	1,839	76	2,424	100
Ontario	1,020	24	3,145	75	4,197	100
Manitoba	100	26	285	74	386	100
Saskatchewan	66	22	230	77	298	100
Alberta	215	20	837	79	1,058	100
British Columbia	306	21	1,159	78	1,481	100
Total	**2,465**	**23**	**7,991**	**76**	**10,541**	**100**

Note: Percentages may not add to 100%. Totals include the "don't know" and "refused" categories, which are not shown in the table.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2011.

Table 7 Distribution of persons in an intimate relationship, whose partners live in a different household, by place of residence of the spouse, Canada, 2011

Place of residence of spouse	Number (in thousands)	percentage
In the same building	22[1]	1[1]
In the same neighbourhood	1,139	46
More than 30 minutes and less than one hour by car	829	34
One hour or more but less than a half day by car	284	12
A half day or more by car	149	6
Total	**2,465**	**100**

Note: Percentages may not add to 100%. Totals include the "don't know" and "refused" categories, which are not shown in the table.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2011.

Table 8
Distribution of persons in an intimate relationship, whose partners live in a different household, by intention to live together, Canada, 2011

Intention to live together	Number (in thousands)	percentage
Definitely yes	789	32
Probably yes	923	37
In the next year	570	33
In 2 years	328	19
In 3 years or more	326	19
Have not discussed	464	27
Probably not	207	8
No, definitely not	158	6
Uncertain	358	15
Total	**2,465**	**100**

Note: Percentages may not add to 100%. Totals include the "don't know" and "refused" categories, which are not shown in the table.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2011.

Table 9
Distribution of the population using contraceptive methods to prevent pregnancy, Canada, 2011

Using a contraceptive method[1]	Number (in thousands)	percentage
No	2,188	38
Yes	3,222	56
Condom	1,103	34
Birth control pill	1,052	33
Intra-uterine device (coil, loop)	371	12
Other method	157	5
More than one method	344	11
Don't know/Not stated	194	6
Don't know/Not stated	395	7
Total	**5,805**	**100**

1 Respondents were asked about using contraception if they were in an intimate relationship with someone of the opposite sex, and if either themselves or their partner was between the ages of 15 and 49. In addition, respondents or their spouse/partner were only asked the question if they were not infertile or sterilized.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2011.

Table 10
Sterilization and infertility among Canadians, 2011, 2001 and 1995

	2011		2001		1995	
	Number (in thousands)	percentage	Number (in thousands)	percentage	Number (in thousands)	percentage
Sterilized[1]						
Total	11,810	100	16,621	100	16,225	100
No	9,190	78	13,459	81	12,874	79
Yes	2,379	20	2,673	16	3,035	19
Sterilized (contraceptive reasons only)	1,773	75	1,942	73	2,077	68
Sterilized (medical reasons only)	505	21	539	20	687	23
Sterilized (contraceptive and medical reasons)	93	4	176	7	255	8
Sterilized (contraceptive reasons only)						
Total	1,773	100	1,942	100	2,077	100
Men	1,202	68	1,105	57	1,029	50
Women	570	32	836	43	1,049	50
Sterilized (medical reasons only)						
Total	505	100	539	100	687	100
Men	37 E	7 E	48 E	9 E	46 E	7 E
Women	468	93	492	91	641	93
Sterilized (contraceptive and medical reasons)						
Total	93	100	176	100	255	100
Men	18 E	19 E	40 E	23 E	46 E	18 E
Women	75	81	135	77	210	82
Infertile[2]						
Total	9,440	100	13,964	100	13,190	100
No	8,879	94	13,162	94	12,594	95
Yes	327	3	299	2	278	2
Men	100	31	61	20	85 E	31
Women	228	70	238	80	192	69

1 Respondents were asked about sterilization if they were in an intimate relationship with someone of the opposite sex, and if either themselves or their partner was between the ages of 15 and 49. Respondents had to state that neither they nor their partner was pregnant and that they did not intend to have a (another) child.

2 Respondents were asked about infertility if they were in an intimate relationship with someone of the opposite sex, and if either themselves or their partner was between the ages of 15 and 49. Respondents had to state that neither they nor their partner was pregnant and that they did not intend to have a (another) child. Included also are respondents who stated that they had not been sterilized and those who had been but did not state why.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100%. Totals include the "don't know" and "refused" categories, which are not shown in the table.

Sources: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1995, 2001 and 2011.

Table 11
Distribution of the population by de facto marital status, age and the presence of children under 25 years in the household, Canada, 2011

	Total		Number of children[1] in the household							
			0		1		2		3+	
	Number (in thousands)	%	Number (in thousands)	%	Number (in thousands)	%	Number (in thousands)	%	Number (in thousands)	%
Total	**28,357**	**100**	**18,522**	**65**	**3,783**	**13**	**4,249**	**15**	**1,803**	**6**
De facto marital status										
With partner	17,814	100	8,981	50	3,249	18	3,912	22	1,673	9
Married	14,494	100	7,245	50	2,525	17	3,304	22	1,420	9
Living common-law	3,320	100	1,736	52	724	21	608	18	253	7
Without a partner	10,541	100	9,539	90	535	5	337	3	125	1
Single	7,350	100	6,927	94	242	3	139	1	42[E]	0[E]
Separated	561	100	305	54	98	17	105	18	53[E]	9[E]
Divorced	1,251	100	976	78	170	13	75	6	30[E]	2[E]
Widowed	1,379	100	1,331	96	25[E]	1[E]	18[E]	1[E]	X	X
Age group										
15 to 24 years	4,549	100	4,357	96	144	3	40[E]	1[E]	X	X
25 to 34 years	4,727	100	2,560	54	935	20	841	18	391	8
35 to 44 years	4,648	100	1,140	25	946	20	1,720	37	842	18
45 to 54 years	5,373	100	2,207	41	1,217	23	1,441	27	508	9
55 to 64 years	4,355	100	3,608	83	504	12	198	5	44[E]	1[E]
65 years and more	4,707	100	4,650	99	38[E]	1[E]	X	X	X	X

1 Children who are single, never married

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2011

Table 12
Distribution of parents of preschool-aged children by use of child care arrangement, Canada, 2011

Used a child care arrangement[1] for at least one of the pre-school aged children[2]	Number (in thousands)	percentage
No	1,445	45
Yes, but not on a regular basis	167	5
Yes, on a regular basis[3]	1,585	50
Total	**3,197**	**100**
Type of child care arrangement[4]		
(Licensed) home daycare	480	30
Daycare	489	31
Preschool/nursery school	137	9
Private arrangement (relative, nanny, etc.)	424	27
Care by older brothers or sisters	X	X
Mix of different types of arrangements	42[E]	3[E]
Total	**1,585**	**100**

1. These are arrangements (paid or unpaid) made by parents when they cannot take care of their child or children during regular work hours, that is, because they are working, studying, doing volunteer work, etc. Although the question specifies "during regular work hours", it applies as much to parents who work as to those who do not and targets a full-time weekday reference period. These arrangements do not include the child care provided by the other parent (for example, when the couple is separated or divorced).

2. Children aged between 0 and 4.

3. An arrangement is considered on a regular basis if it is done at the same place each week. It could be, for example, every Friday or every day of the week.

4. Includes only parents who reported making a childcare arrangement on a regular basis.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100%. Totals include the "don't know" and "refused" categories, which are not shown in the table.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2011.

Table 13
Distribution of parents of preschool-aged children according to their affiliation to a « Centre de la petite enfance », Quebec, 2011

Type of daycare	Number (in thousands)	percentage
Non-profit daycare centre (CPE)[1]	154	36
Private daycare centre	98	23
Home-based daycare affiliated with a CPE	110	26
Home-based daycare not affiliated with a CPE	49 E	12 E
Mix of different types of daycare	X	X
Total	**425**	**100**

1. A "centre de la petite enfance (CPE)" is a non-profit or cooperative daycare centre where at least two thirds of the board of directors is made up of parents who use the service. CPEs offer lower cost spaces at their facility (7 $ a day). CPEs provide care for children aged 0 to 5 while their parents are away and offer educational activities.
Through the "Centre de la petite enfance" and Other Child Care Services Act (1997), the Quebec government established a network of CPEs from the existing non-profit daycare centres and home daycares.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100%. Totals include the "don't know" and "refused" categories, which are not shown in the table.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2011.

Table 14
Distribution of parents of school-aged children by use of child care arrangement, Canada, 2011

Used a child care arrangement[1] for at least one of the school-aged children[2]	Number (in thousands)	percentage
No	3,053	60
Yes, but not on a regular basis	340	7
Yes, on a regular basis[3]	1,707	33
Total	**5,100**	**100**
Type of child care arrangement[4]		
Private arrangement (relative, nanny, etc.)	668	39
Care by an older brother or sister	37	2 E
Before or after school service	941	55
Other type of arrangement	X	X
Mix of different types of arrangements	50	3 E
Total	**1,707**	**100**

1. These are arrangements (paid or unpaid) made by parents when they cannot take care of their child or children during regular work hours, that is, because they are working, studying, doing volunteer work, etc. Although the question specifies "during regular work hours", it applies as much to parents who work as to those who do not and targets a full-time weekday reference period. These arrangements do not include the child care provided by the other parent (for example, when the couple is separated or divorced).
2. Children aged between 5 and 14.
3. That is, at the same place every week. It could be, for example, every Friday or every day of the week.
4. Only includes parents who used a child care arrangement on a regular basis.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100%. Totals include the "don't know" and "refused" categories, which are not shown in the table.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2011.

Table 15
Distribution of the population by age group and grandparent status, Canada, 2011 and 2001

	2011					2001				
	Is a grandparent		Is not a grandparent		Total	Is a grandparent		Is not a grandparent		Total
Age group	Number (in thousands)	%	Number (in thousands)	%	Number (in thousands)	Number (in thousands)	%	Number (in thousands)	%	Number (in thousands)
30 to 39 years	26 E	1 E	4,575	99	4,602	23 E	0 E	4,880	100	4,903
40 to 49 years	458	9	4,642	91	5,100	469	9	4,573	91	5,042
50 to 59 years	1,657	33	3,321	67	4,978	1,498	40	2,241	60	3,739
60 to 69 years	2,377	67	1,163	33	3,540	1,740	72	664	28	2,404
70 to 79 years	1,637	82	367	18	2,004	1,370	77	405	23	1,775
80 to 89 years	858	83	173	17	1,030	566	78	156	22	722
90 years and more	123	81	28 E	19 E	152	50	75	17 E	25 E	67
Total	**7,136**	**33**	**14,269**	**67**	**21,405**	**5,715**	**31**	**12,935**	**69**	**18,651**

Sources: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2001 and 2011.

Table 16
Distribution of grandparents by number of grandchildren, Canada, 2011 and 2001

	2011		2001	
Number of grandchildren	Number (in thousands)	percentage	Number (in thousands)	percentage
1	1,279	18	982	17
2	1,576	22	1,048	18
3	989	14	739	13
4	886	12	665	12
5	569	8	517	9
6	508	7	400	7
7 and more	1,295	18	1,314	23
Total	**7,136**	**100**	**5,715**	**100**

Note: Percentages may not add to 100%. Totals include the "don't know" and "refused" categories, which are not shown in the table.

Sources: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2001 and 2011.

Table 17
Distribution of the population by breakup of parents' union, by age group and province, 2011 and 2001

	2011					2001				
	Parents' relationship broke up		Parents' relationship did not break up		Total	Parents' relationship broke up		Parents' relationship did not break up		Total
	Number (in thousands)	%	Number (in thousands)	%	Number (in thousands)	Number (in thousands)	%	Number (in thousands)	%	Number (in thousands)
Total	**5,278**	**19**	**23,079**	**81**	**28,357**	**2,475**	**10**	**22,453**	**90**	**24,928**
Age group of respondent at the time of the survey										
15 to 19 years	518	24	1,660	76	2,178	465	22	1,609	78	2,074
20 to 29 years	1,159	24	3,610	76	4,769	977	23	3,226	77	4,203
30 to 39 years	1,194	26	3,408	74	4,602	684	14	4,219	86	4,903
40 to 49 years	1,071	21	4,030	79	5,101	303	6	4,739	94	5,042
50 to 59 years	784	16	4,198	84	4,981	43 [1]	1 [1]	3,696	99	3,739
60 years and more	552	8	6,173	92	6,726	X	X	4,964	100	4,967
Province										
Newfoundland and Labrador	48	11	382	89	431	23	5	417	95	440
Prince Edward Island	20	17	99	83	120	9	8	102	92	111
Nova Scotia	147	19	647	81	794	70	9	694	91	765
New Brunswick	108	17	523	83	631	55	9	559	91	614
Quebec	1,285	19	5,341	81	6,626	641	11	5,387	89	6,028
Ontario	1,906	17	9,097	83	11,003	878	9	8,650	91	9,528
Manitoba	148	15	854	85	1,002	85	9	816	91	900
Saskatchewan	157	19	686	81	843	71	9	718	91	789
Alberta	649	21	2,404	79	3,053	253	11	2,156	90	2,408
British Columbia	809	21	3,045	79	3,854	391	12	2,954	88	3,344

Note: Breakup means a separation or divorce.

Sources: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2001 and 2011.

Table 18
Distribution of separated or divorced parents, by primary residence of their children, Canada, 2011

Primary residence of the children[1]	Number (in thousands)	percentage
Father's residence	171	15
Mother's residence	824	70
Time divided equally between parents' home	109	9
Somewhere else	36 E	3 E
More than one residence[2]	38 E	3 E
Total	**1,177**	**100**

1 Children aged 18 years and under at the time of the survey.

2 This category includes parents with two or more children, who do not all live at the same primary residence.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100%. Totals include the "don't know" and "refused" categories, which are not shown in the table.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2011.

Table 19
Distribution of separated or divorced parents by major decision making role about the health, religion and/or education of their children, Canada, 2011

Who makes the major decisions about children[1]	Number (in thousands)	percentage
Both parents together or alternatively	403	35
Only one parent	691	60
Father	101	15
Mother	590	85
Someone else	X	X
Varies depending on what the decision is	X	X
Other	16	1 E
Total	**1,155**	**100**

1 Children aged 18 years and under at the time of the survey.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100%. Totals include the "don't know" and "refused" categories, which are not shown in the table.

Source: Statistique Canada, Enquête sociale générale, 2011.

Methodology

The target population for the GSS is persons 15 years of age and over residing in Canada, excluding the following two groups:

1. Residents of Yukon, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories
2. Full-time residents of institutions

All GSS interviews are conducted by telephone. Households without landbased telephones were therefore excluded. In 2010, the proportion of households without telephone service was estimated at 1.1% (Residential Telephone Service Survey [RTSS], December 2010). Interviews were not conducted by cell phone, thus eliminating all individuals who had only cellular service. This group represents 13% of the population (RTSS, December 2010). Survey estimates were weighted to account for persons without telephones.

Data for Cycle 25 of the GSS were collected from February to November 2011 in five (non-overlapping) waves of two months each. The sample was evenly distributed over the 10 months and selected using the Elimination of Non-Working Banks technique, a Random Digit Dialling (RDD) method.

The response rate for Cycle 25 of the GSS was 65.8%. This was based on the 22,435 respondents. Statistical significance testing is available upon request.

Data limitations

It is worth noting that the figures appearing in this publication are estimates based on data collected from a small fraction of the population (roughly one person in 1,250) and are subject to error. There are two types of errors: sampling errors and non-sampling errors.

Sampling error is the difference between an estimate derived from the sample and the one that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same data collection methods. The size of the sampling error can be estimated from the survey results and an indication of the magnitude of this error. If the estimated sampling error is greater than 33% of the estimate, it is considered too unreliable to publish and the symbol "F" is printed in table cells where this occurs. Although not considered too unreliable to publish, estimates with an estimated error between 16.6% and 33.3% are marked "qualified" and used with caution. These are identified with an "E".

All other types of errors, such as coverage, response, processing and non-response errors, are non-sampling errors. It is difficult to identify and evaluate the scope of many of these errors.